

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SIG-01 CIAE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051528

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, AS

SUBJECT: TIMOR - DUNN'S ALLEGATIONS

REF: CANBERRA 1534, JAKARTA 2905 AND PREVIOUS.
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1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 23 FROM
CONGRESSMAN FRASER TO THE SECRETARY REGARDING ALLEGATIONS
OF INDONESIAN KILLING IN TIMOR. LETTER APPARENTLY IS BASED
TO LARGE EXTENT ON DUNN'S CHARGES AS MENTIONED REFTELS.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

I HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF LETTERS REPORTING ATROCITIES BY INDONESIANS IN EAST TIMOR. ENCLOSED ARE TWO ACCOUNTS WHICH APPEARED IN AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS. ONE CLIPPING INDICATES THAT A CATHOLIC RELIEF ORGANIZATION ESTIMATES THAT AS MANY AS 100,000 PEOPLE HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF THE INDONESIAN OCCUPATION OF EAST TIMOR. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE CONCERNED FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS BUT PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THE INDONESIAN FORCES ARE IN PART EQUIPPED WITH U.S. ASSISTED MATERIAL AS WELL AS TRAINING.

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THESE CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN EAST TIMOR ACCURATE? WHAT ARE THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL

IMPLICATIONS OF THE USE BY THE INDONESIAN FORCES IN EAST TIMOR OF U.S. PROVIDED EQUIPMENT? TO WHAT EXTENT DOES SUCH USE VIOLATE PROVISIONS OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT?

YOUR KIND ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

SINCERELY YOURS, DOHALD M. FRASER, CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS END QUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF RESPONSE FROM ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY JENKINS TO ABOVE LETTER DELIVERED TO FRASER MARCH 8.

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4. QUOTE: DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 23, INQUIRING ABOUT RECENT PRESS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT AS MANY AS 100,000 PEOPLE MAY HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF THE INDONESIAN OCCUPATION OF EAST TIMOR.

ALTHOUGH OUR INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN TIMOR IS LIMITED, WE BELIEVE THE CASUALTY FIGURES CITED IN THOSE ACCOUNTS ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE PARTICULAR INFORMATION ON WHICH THE REPORTS ARE BASED, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SEEN REFERENCES TO A STUDY PREPARED BY A FORMER AUSTRALIAN CONSULAR OFFICIAL IN TIMOR.

OUR EMBASSY IN JAKARTA HAS HAD OCCASION TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR WITH A NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN RELIEF WORK THERE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS -- INCLUDING CATHOLIC RELIEF GROUPS -- HAS EVER SUGGESTED TO OUR OFFICIALS THAT 100,000

PERSONS, OR ANYTHING RESEMBLING THAT FIGURE, HAD BEEN KILLED IN TIMOR. WHILE PRECISE CASUALTY FIGURES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE INDONESIAN INTERVENTION ARE NOT KNOWN, A MORE ACCURATE ESTIMATE WOULD PROBABLY BE A FEW THOUSAND, MOST OF WHOM WOULD HAVE BEEN FIGHTING MEN ON BOTH SIDES.

WE RECALL IN THIS REGARD AN EARLIER PRESS STORY WHICH MAY HAVE SERVED AS ONE OF THE SOURCES OF THE RECENT ACCOUNTS. IN EARLY 1976 AN EAST TIMOR POLITICAL LEADER COMMENTED TO THE PRESS THAT AS MANY AS 60,000 PEOPLE HAD LOST THEIR LIVES OR THEIR PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF THE TIMOR FIGHTING. (INCLUDED IN THIS FIGURE WERE THE 40,000 TIMORESE REFUGEES WHO FLED TO INDONESIA IN 1975, AS WELL AS THOSE KILLED OR DISPOSSESSED IN THE INTERNECINE FIGHTING BEFORE

THE INDONESIAN OCCUPATION.) AS CARRIED IN THE WORLD PRESS,
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HOWEVER, THE POLITICAL LEADER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT 60,000 HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE FIGHTING.

WE HAVE ASKED OUR EMBASSY IN JAKARTA FOR ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS THEY MAY HAVE ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WILL INFORM YOU OF THEIR RESPONSE.

SINCERELY, KEMPTON B. JENKINS, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS. END QUOTE.

5. WE LOOK FORWARD TO EMBASSY JAKARTA'S ASSESSMENT PROMISED IN JAKARTA 2905 AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS POST MAY HAVE ON ABOVE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. IF CANBERRA HAS NO OBJECTION, YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO INFORM THE INDONESIANS, AT YOUR DISCRETION, OF DUNN'S ALLEGATIONS AND IMPENDING VISIT TO THE U.S.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DTKENNEY:LGR
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Executive Order: GS
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Film Number: D770080-0355
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770380/aaaactao.tel
Line Count: 156
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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SAS ID: 3172131
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: TIMOR - DUNN'S ALLEGATIONS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, AS, PT
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0819febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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